

REMARKS

As a preliminary matter, Applicants appreciate the time and courtesy extended by the Examiner during the December 20, 2006 telephone interview with Applicants' representative. During the interview, Applicants' representative differentiated the claimed step of "selectively reforming the surface portion of said resin layer by applying energy . . . to generate a difference in a rate of thermal shrinkage between said surface portion and the layer portion other than the surface portion" from a step of using a mask to form concave parts within a layer.

More specifically, Applicants' representative discussed how the large recesses of the embodiment of Applicants' Figure 14B are formed by using the mask 42 (of Figure 14A) and developing the resist film, and how this step is not defined in independent Claims 1 and 14 (even though certain embodiments may include such a step). Applicants' representative further explained to the Examiner how the claimed invention, as defined in independent Claims 1 and 14, is directed to a step in which energy (such as UV radiation) is applied to the surface of the resin layer 20, and how the energy is applied at a certain energy density per unit time such that the thermal shrinkage of the surface portion of the resin layer is different from that of the remainder of the resin layer. It was also explained how the invention of Claims 1 and 14 includes an additional step of heating the resin layer so that random wrinkles of micro-grooves are formed in the surface portion, such as the random wrinkles of micro-grooves represented by the jagged surface layer of Applicants' Figure 14C

(which “wrinkles of micro-grooves” are different than the large recesses resulting from the use of mask 42).

During the interview, the Examiner agreed that United States Patent No. 6,380,995 to Kim; United States Patent No. 6,181,397 to Ichimura; and United States Patent Application Publication No. 2002/030774 to Yoshii et al. did not appear to include the claimed steps of “selectively reforming the surface portion of said resin layer by applying energy . . . to generate a difference in a rate of thermal shrinkage between said surface portion and the layer portion other than the surface portion” and then “performing a heat treatment to said resin layer to form random wrinkles of micro-grooves in said surface portion,” as defined in independent Claims 1 and 14.

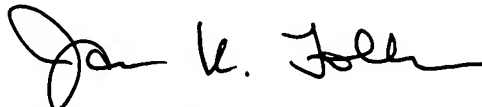
Accordingly, as all of the features of independent Claims 1 and 14 are not shown in the cited references, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the outstanding §103 rejections of independent Claims 1 and 14, and associated dependent Claims 2-9 and 15-18.

For all of the above reasons, Applicants request reconsideration and allowance of the claimed invention. Should the Examiner be of the opinion that an additional telephone

conference would aid in the prosecution of the application, or that outstanding issues exist,
the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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